

KAISER REFUSES
TO CHANGE ACTSReply Of Germany To Blockade
Protests Of United States
Firm But Friendly.

WANTS PRESSURE ON BRITISH

Declares England by Unlawful
Course Has Forced Tontons
To Retaliate.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 18.—The reply of Germany to the protest of the United States against a blockade of British waters is couched in the most friendly terms, but firmly maintains the position of Germany as already announced. The answer which is a lengthy document, was converted into code at the United States embassy under the direction of Ambassador Gerard and has been transmitted in full to Washington.

The note explains that Germany's proposed action is rendered necessary by Great Britain's policy of attempting to cut off the food supply for the German civil population by a method never recognized in international law. Germany's course in ordering merchant ships to fly neutral flags, equipping them with artillery with orders to destroy submarines, the German reply contends, renders obligatory the right of search, thus giving Germany the right to attack English shipping. Germany holds that she cannot abandon that right under the stress which England has forced upon her.

Necessary Stand.
Since Germany must compel the nations with which she is at war to return to the recognized principles of international law and restore the freedom of seas she argues that the stand she has taken is necessary.

The note recommends that the United States government send warships to England to convoy merchant vessels through the danger zone as a security against the understanding that vessels thus guarded shall carry no war supplies. Hope is expressed that the American government will understand the position in which Germany has been placed and appreciate the reasons for its course.

The reply closes with an expression of the hope that the United States may prevail on Great Britain to return to the principles of international law recognized prior to the outbreak of the war and in particular obtain the observance of the London declaration by belligerents opposed to Germany. If this was done, the note explains, Germany would be enabled to import food supplies and raw materials. Germany would recognize in this an invaluable service toward a more humane conduct of the war and would act in accordance with the new situation thus created.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—An attitude of friendliness toward the United States is assumed by Germany in its reply to the war zone protest, but no promise of modification is made, according to Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent.

The reply states that the communication from the United States government was examined in the same good will and friendship by which the protest "seems to have been dictated."

"The Imperial German government is in accord with the United States government in that for both parties, it is to a high degree desirable to avoid any misunderstanding which might arise from the measures announced by the German admiralty and to provide against the occurrence of incidents which might trouble the friendly relations between the two governments."

The German government, the note says, may rely on a full understanding with the United States because the proposed procedure of the German admiralty is not aimed at the legitimate commerce of neutrals but "represents only a measure of self defense imposed on Germany by her vital interests against England's method of warfare, which is contrary to international law and which so far, no protests by neutrals have succeeded in bringing back to the generally recognized principles as they existed before the outbreak of the present war."

The text of the German government's reply to the American note follows:

"The Imperial government has examined the communication from the United States government in the same spirit of good will and friendship by which the communication appears to have been dictated. The Imperial government is in accord with the United States government that for both parties it is to a high degree desirable to avoid any misunderstanding which might arise from measures announced by the German admiralty and to provide against the occurrence of incidents which might trouble the friendly relations between the two governments."

For Self-Defense.

With regard to assuring these friendly relations, the German government believes that it may all the more rely on the full understanding with the United States as to the measures announced by the German admiralty which was fully explained in the note of the fourth instant, in no way directed against legitimate commerce and legitimate shipping of neutrals, but represents solely a measure of self-defense imposed on Germany by her vital interests against England's methods of warfare which is contrary to international law and which so far no protest by neutrals has succeeded in bringing back to the generally recognized principles of law.

(Continued on Last Page.)

TURKEY APOLOGIZES

Constantinople Official Expresses His
Regret at Insult to Greek Naval At-
tache; Incident Closed.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Turkey yielded to the demand for satisfaction made by Greece because of the insult offered by the Greek naval attaché at Constantinople.

"The director-general of police of Constantinople, it is officially announced, has visited the Greek legation in that city and in the presence of all the members of the staff he formally expressed his regret at the insult offered the Greek naval attaché. He promised further that an official communication to this effect would be published in the press. The incident now is regarded as closed."

The Greek minister of Turkey left Constantinople the latter part of last week, leaving his secretary of legation in charge, because the porte was slow in carrying out its agreement to give satisfaction for an insult offered the Greek naval attaché. The difficulty was not regarded as serious and it was felt that Turkey would offer the necessary apology.

HAMBURG SHIPS
NOT FOR SALEOfficial of Line Says Company Can
Stand War's Drain and Does Not
Wish to Sacrifice Its Vessels.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Inquiry into charges of lobbying in connection with the government ship purchase bill was continued today by the special senate committee appointed for that purpose.

W. J. Siskel, an official of the Hamburg-American line, testified when the hearing began. His testimony was heard because of the statement of Bernard N. Baker of Baltimore, formerly connected with the Atlantic Transport line, before the committee yesterday in which he said Mr. Siskel had told him he had received orders from the German government not to sell any German vessels in American ports to the United States.

Only nine of the Hamburg-American line's smallest and most obsolete vessels are for sale, Siskel today told the committee.

Advice from headquarters in Hamburg, he said, showed the corporation was able to stand the losses of the war for five years. He said he and his assistants had positive instructions to make no sacrifice because of financial conditions in Germany.

Siskel testified he had no reason to believe any of a hundred or more persons who had inquired if the company wanted to sell ships since the outbreak of the war, either directly or indirectly, represented the United States. At no time, he said, had any Hamburg-American ships been offered for sale.

Prior to last October, he added, the American directors had considered selling 20 of the 40 ships laid up, but instructions came from Herr Hall, managing director of the company in Hamburg, to withdraw all but nine out of date boats.

Under Senator Burton's question Mr. Siskel testified he sought a loan of \$2,500,000 through Kuhn, Loeb and company of New York and other banks soon after the war broke out but was refused. The only loan actually made since the war, he said, was one of \$200,000 from a private individual whose name he gave in confidence.

Siskel's instructions, he reiterated, were to dispose of no passenger or combined freight and passenger vessel or any modern freighters.

Siskel said Secretary McAdoo and Garrison had consulted his assistants about ships to bring Americans home from the war zone.

"We never solicited the sale of our ships at that time. The government sent for us," said he.

In November, Bernard N. Baker of Baltimore, asked him to meet Secretary McAdoo.

"I wired him," said Siskel, "that if I were to see Secretary McAdoo on the question of the sale of ships I preferred not to meet the gentleman. Our independence was such as to place us in a position where we had only a very few ships of small value for sale. Mr. Baker replied Mr. McAdoo wished to see me only on the general ocean freight rate situation and I did meet him."

"You made no efforts then to sell any boats to the government and the government no effort to buy any boats from you?" asked Senator Reed.

"That is correct."

WHEAT IS AFFECTED

Blockade Causes Drop in Price Which
Soon Starts Upward When Shippers
Are Ready to Take Risk.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Wheat prices today shrank 4½¢ a bushel in consequence of the beginning of the attempted submarine blockade of Great Britain. The May delivery here sold as low as \$1.55½¢ against \$1.60 at the close last night, the July option showed a loss of nearly four at \$1.28½¢.

Later the declines were fully overcome and the market even scored some advance. The upward swing was largely due to export buying on a scale which seemed to demonstrate that shippers were more ready to take risks than had been supposed.

**BOXING BILL FAVORABLY
REPORTED ON IN MISSOURI**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 18.—A bill legalizing boxing matches in Missouri and creating a state boxing commission was reported for passage today by the house committee on municipal corporations.

LESSEES TO BE
SENT TO COURTSchool Land Commission Took
Action Today on Two of
Riverbed Leases.

WILL LET COURT DECIDE IT

Leases Were Made When Oil
Was High and Price Has
Since Dropped Low.

Steps were taken by the school land commission Wednesday afternoon to relieve adverse conditions of long standing relative to riverbed leases in the Chautauque river, made with oil men by the oil school land board. Specific action was taken as to the Henry & Barnett and the Glover leaf leases. Holders of these were instructed by the board to withdraw their suits for enforcement of the federal court and ask for such reduction in royalty and other relief as they see fit.

The commission agrees that the federal court have jurisdiction in the matter to make an order modifying the royalty on the leases so as to reduce them to not less than 25 per cent plus a bonus in cash or oil, the bonus to be determined by the court. It is also agreed that the court may impose conditions that will insure the expeditious and proper development of these leases.

Given Ten Days' Limit.

The school land commission spent much of the afternoon discussing conditions and listening to representatives of the interests involved. These leases have been a source of worry to the commission for many months. Attempts were frequently made to have the old board reduce the royalties bid at a time when the price of oil was high. The board did not see fit to grant the relief asked. The original royalty on the Henry & Barnett lease was 81 per cent and the Glover leaf 51 per cent.

The limit of ten days is given the lease holders to take action in order that something may be done immediately to protect the state's interest. If the lessees do not take action in that time then the school land board will ask the receiver to take such steps as necessary to have the leases cancelled in the federal court.

This is believed to be the best solution of the matter. All members of the commission voted in favor of the action except E. B. Howard, who was opposed to that action where the state was suggesting a specific royalty rate.

CAPITOL BILLS
BEFORE SENATEWide Differences in Two Bills Cause
Skirmish and Fate of Commis-
sioners Is In Balance.

The preliminary skirmish over the capitol bills now pending in the senate came up this morning when Senator Charles Barrett of Shawnee moved that the majority committee bill on the capitol matter be placed on the calendar without reference to the committee.

Senator Shaw of Mill Creek objected to such action unless the minority capitol bill which he is backing was also placed on the calendar.

Senator McIntosh of Durant tried to force the issue by moving that the rules be suspended and the majority capitol bill be placed on the calendar. After some discussion McIntosh withdrew his motion and President Trapp permitted the bills to take their regular course and be referred back to the senate committee on public buildings. This committee is hopelessly split on the capitol question and the two bills were drawn by that committee representing the divergent views. The reference back to that committee is therefore looked upon as a mere formality and they are expected to be reported back to the senate some time today or tomorrow in the same form as introduced Wednesday.

In defending his motion of having the minority bill also placed on the calendar, Senator Shaw stated that there are three wide differences in the majority and minority measures. The minority bill which he and several other members of the committee are supporting place the capitol commission on a salary basis, as under the present law, permits only the use of Oklahoma material in the construction of the capitol and does not raise the salary of the building superintendent as proposed in the majority bill. The latter measure would place the members of the capitol commission on a per diem basis to be paid only when called into service by the governor, and provides for closing of their offices.

**SMITHING AND FREIGHT PAY
DISCUSSED AT WAGE HEARING**

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Testimony of A. W. Trenholm, general manager of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad at the western railroad wage arbitration today included comments on rules and rates of pay in switching and freight as demanded by the men.

The witness pointed out instances where the demands of the men, in his opinion, would result in duplicate pay.

**WILSON WILL CALL NO
EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President Wilson virtually has decided not to call an extra session of congress March 5, no matter what the fate of the ship bill. No official announcement has been made but in congressional quarters his intention is well understood.

BULLETIN.

The senate passed finally by a unanimous vote this afternoon the banking bill. The vote was 96 to 0. There was no debate on final passage. The bill carries the emergency.

Day In Congress.

SENATE

Leaders conferred on some plan for expediting appropriation bill and administration ship bill.

Committee investigating charges of influence against ship bill continued taking testimony.

HOUSE

Debate on appropriation bill begun. Fortifications bill carrying more than \$6,000,000 exclusive of Panama canal reported to the house for action.

OLD POLK JOINS
RENEGADE BANDFather of Tse-Ne-Gat, Whose Capture
Posse Is Seeking, to Aid of Son
With Fifty Armed Plures.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 18.—Advice from Cortez, Colo., early today stated that the posse of 20 men who left there yesterday for Bluff, Utah, to capture Tse-Ne-Gat, a Plute Indian wanted by the federal authorities of this city on the charge of murdering a herder near Cortez, last March, spent the night in McElmo canyon, 20 miles west of here. An effort will be made to reach Grayson, Utah, about 40 miles west of McElmo canyon tonight. The party expects to meet a Utah posse under United States Marshal Aquila Nebeker, of Salt Lake City, at Grayson.

Under the leadership of "Old Polk," father of the Indian whose capture is sought, a band of 50 or more armed Plutes is reported to have gathered in a remote section of southwestern Utah to aid Tse-Ne-Gat in an effort to evade arrest.

War at a Glance

Germany has declined to alter her position in consequence of the American note concerning the war zone decree, although expressing the most friendly feelings toward this country. The German reply, a summary of which was cabled from Berlin states that Germany cannot abandon her position in view of the attempts of England to cut off the food supply of non-combatants and recommended that the United States send warships to protect American vessels passing through the danger zone. The German decree went into effect at midnight, but there have been few changes in sailings to and from English ports.

Emperor William has telegraphed to the president of the province of East Prussia that the Russians have been completely defeated and driven from the province.

An official Vienna communication says the Russians have been defeated in Bukovina, where the Austrian forces have been advancing recently.

The Austrians have occupied Kolomea after a hard battle. A report from the Russian war office, however, asserts there is no change in Bukovina. It speaks of ferocious fighting in Northern Poland and says that the Russians have won the advantage in several engagements in Galicia.

Turkey has yielded to Greece and offered satisfaction for the insult to the Greek naval attaché at Constantinople. The incident which led to the departure of the Greek minister is now closed.

Fourteen members of the crew of the Zeppelin which was destroyed over France Island were rescued and will be interned by the Danish authorities. The Zeppelin, one of the largest of the German dirigibles, caught fire while cruising over the island.

**STATUTORY PROHIBITION
BILL PASSES IOWA HOUSE**

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 18.—The Iowa house of representatives today passed the Clarkson bill, effective January 1, 1916, by a vote of 79 to 29. The measure already has passed the senate. The governor has indicated his intention of signing it. Under its provision Iowa will return to statutory prohibition.

THE WEATHER

Washington Forecast.

Oklahoma—Tonight and Friday generally cloudy, colder tonight except in the southwest portion, colder Friday.

Louisiana—Unsettled tonight, Friday, probably showers in north portion, warmer tonight.

Arkansas—Unsettled tonight and Friday, probably rain, warmer tonight in east portion, colder Friday in west.

East Texas—Unsettled tonight and Friday, probably showers in east portion, colder Friday in extreme northeast portion, colder Friday except in the south east portion.

West Texas—Tonight and Friday generally cloudy, colder tonight, colder Friday in east portion.

Cloudy and unsettled weather tonight and Friday, with probably rain tonight; somewhat colder.

	45
1 a. m.	45
3 a. m.	45
5 a. m.	44
7 a. m.	44
9 a. m.	44
11 a. m.	44
1 p. m.	44
3 p. m.	44
5 p. m.	44
7 p. m.	44
9 p. m.	44
11 p. m.	44

A shallow low pressure area covers the western slope of the Rocky mountains, with centers over northwestern Texas and Manitoba. This disturbance is giving cloudy and unsettled weather in the plains states and high rain has fallen in parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and northern Texas. Heavy rain has been quite general over the western slope of the Rockies. Fair weather has prevailed east of the Mississippi river. Temperatures are above the seasonal averages in all sections of the United States, except the Northern Atlantic states.

LAW PROVIDES
BETTER ROADSHouse Passes Finally Measure
to Tax Automobiles For
Road Purposes.

MET WITH MUCH OPPOSITION

New Law Also Does Away With
Highway Commissioner and
Makes Engineer.

Although opposed strenuously by Representatives Hall and Glasco and others, the administration good roads bill, one of the most important pieces of proposed legislation now pending, was passed finally in the house this morning by a vote of 64 to 27. Enough members changed their votes on the roll call to adopt the emergency.

Representative Hall led the opposition to the bill, contending that it creates a large number of offices carrying salaries of \$340,840 a year, including pay allowed county commissioners. He also declared that the bill was so drawn that a large number of counties cannot take advantage of its provisions. Hall also said that by taking automobiles off the automobile tax list and making them subject to special taxes there would be an annual deficit in the county funds of counties having a large number of automobiles which would have to be made up by increased tax levies.

Says It Is Expensive.
Representative Glasco objected to the bill on the ground that it provides for an expensive system and that the people are not in financial condition to have their burdens increased.

Representative Lemon in defending the bill declared that it would not make one cent of increase in present expenses unless the county commissioners who are elected by the people, levy the tax and that the bill is a great step in advance toward securing good roads at the minimum expense to the people.

The goods roads law abolishes the office of state highway commissioner and creates a highway department under the state board of public affairs and gives that body authority to appoint a state highway engineer.

The bill substitutes for all present methods of taxing automobiles a tax of 50 cents per horse power on each machine under two years, old 40 cents.

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FIVE ENGLISH
VESSELS SUNKHolger Reaches Buenos Ayres With
Crews of Crown Prince Wilhelm's
Victims.

BUENOS AYRES, Feb. 18.—The German steamer Holger which has arrived here brings news that during the months of January and February the German auxiliary cruiser Crown Prince, operating on the northeast coast of Brazil, sank the British steamer Hemisphere, the British steamer Potara, the sailing ship Sumatra and the sailing ship Wilfred. The crews of these vessels are on board the Holger.

On the Holger there are also 51 passengers and 90 of the crew of the British steamer Highland Breeze, a vessel of 7,634 tons, belonging to the Nelson Steam Navigation company of London, which sailed from London January 3 for Buenos Ayres and which was sunk in the Atlantic by a German warship.

The crews of the other vessels given as having been sent to the bottom apparently also were saved, for the Holger has on board 27 men from the Hemisphere, 47 from the Potara, 22 from the Sumatra and 7 from the Wilfred.

The German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm has been operating against British merchantmen on the shipping routes to South American ports since the first month of the war. The Kron Prinz Wilhelm was formerly a North German-Lloyd liner. Since then her whereabouts have been a mystery. Once she was seen transferring a cargo of coal to the Karlsruhe off the Bahama Islands. Both vessels have eluded the British warships.

EMBARGO UNNEUTRAL

President Wilson Tells Delegation
Women that Nation Cannot Be Im-
partial and Prevent Export of Arms.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President Wilson today told a delegation of women who brought a petition signed by 20,000 persons asking an embargo on exports of war materials that such an embargo in his opinion would be an unneutral act. Miss Elsie Lang of Brooklyn, N. Y., headed the visitors.

The gravity of the European situation, the president said, made it necessary for the United States to be absolutely impartial in its attitude. He added that he appreciated the humanitarian motives that prompted the women.

The delegation recalled that President Grant had signed such an embargo during the Franco-Prussian war. The president is understood to have replied that the cases were not parallel.

ADJUST DIFFERENCES

Cabral With Well Equipped Army Is
on Way to Camma; Talks With
Governor Maytorena.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Feb. 18.—General Juan A. Cabral is reported to have adjusted his differences with Governor Maytorena when he was to accompany an military commander of Sonora two months ago.

Cabral conferred with General Ramon Sosa, commanding Cabral's force of conventionalists, Tuesday, at Rio de Agua. Afterwards he entered Camma, where he met the Yaqui and Maytorena leaders.

Cabral's army, variously stated to be 2,000 to 3,000 men, is said to be well equipped. A rear guard of 500 is reported to be on its way to Camma with some artillery.

Cabral came here recently after having been detained at Camma by Maytorena. He said he would take no further part in Mexican affairs, not having been successful in assuming command of the Maytorena forces in accordance with General Villa's orders.

CHINA PRESENTS
JAP'S DEMANDSMemorandum Differs Materially From
That Sent by Japan; Much Concern
Felt in England.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—China has delivered to Great Britain, France, Russia and the United States a memorandum of twenty-one demands made by Japan in the latter part of January. They differ materially from the eleven demands communicated to the powers by the Japanese government of February 11.

Kai Ito Shih, Chinese minister, delivered the memorandum to the United States giving the first official information here as to the demands originally made by Japan on China.

With both the Chinese version and the Japanese memorandum of the demands now in hand the United States today directed an informal inquiry through its diplomatic representatives at both Tokyo and Peking to clear up the discrepancies between the two versions and determine accurately what is the present basis of negotiation.

It was suggested that the memorandum now given by China to the powers was a report of a conversation between the Japanese minister at Peking and the foreign secretary and that when the latter repeated the 21 demands eleven were retained and re-revealed to the powers in a memorandum given to the diplomatic representatives of the powers at Tokyo.

While officials and diplomats representing Great Britain, France and Russia here guarded with the utmost secrecy the two versions of the demands, it was learned that China originally was asked by Japan for much more extensive privileges than are contained in the eleven demands later pressed.

There is a disposition to believe that the latter demands asking for special privileges in certain localities, that is, in Shanghai, southern Manchuria and Inner Mongolia, would be the one for which Japan would continue to ask for an acceptance, since those did not concern the whole of China, and in the view of many observers do not conflict with the principle of the integrity of China, the open door or freedom of opportunity in the far east.

TOKIO, Feb. 18.—It was learned here today that Japan recently explained the tenor of her demands on China to certain powers including the United States. The impression is held in some quarters in Tokyo that without intending to disturb the open door policy, the integrity of China, or the spheres of influence of other powers, Japan gradually will seek to extend her influence in China. She feels, it is being argued in Tokyo, that her position entitled her to a predominating role in the development of the republic.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The anxiety felt here concerning the demands Japan made on China in the course of the negotiations which almost immediately followed the occupation by Japan of the German concession of Kiao Chow, was exemplified in a request made in parliament this afternoon for the publication of the text of these demands. Answer a questioner, the foreign secretary said:

"I am not at present in a position to communicate to the house information on this subject which has been given me confidentially by the Japanese government."

HINDUS IN A REVOLT

Japanese and French Marines Said to
Have Quelled Mutineers at Singa-
pore After Fight.

TOKIO, Feb. 18.—A revolt has broken out among the Hindu soldiers at Singapore, one of the straits settlements belonging to Great Britain, according to newspaper dispatches received here today from Malay archipelago.

Marines were landed at Singapore from Japan and French warships and some fighting has taken place between the mutineers and the men from the war vessels.

The Hindu mutineers numbered 800 but later half of this number was reported to have surrendered and the revolt was said to be subsiding.

LABOR DEMANDS REFUSED
BY HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The house of commons after a debate which lasted until late last night refused to take a division on the motion of the labor party that the government take over the means of transport and fix maximum prices for food and coal. Although the laborites urged a division their plea was rejected and the subject, therefore is closed as far as parliament is concerned.

BLOCKADE CAUSE
OF LITTLE FEARShipping Companies Announce
No Changes of Regular Sched-
ules in War Zone.

GREAT BATTLES FOR WARSAW

Germans Hope to Take City And
Break Russian Power; Allies
Start Offensive.

BULLETIN.

THE HAGUE, Feb. 18.—The government of the Netherlands has refused a request for war vessels to convey the merchant vessels through the mine field of the war zone, on ground that such ships need no escort.

BULLETIN.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Insurance was placed at Lloyd's today at 20 guineas per cent on policies covering the holder against war between the United States and Germany within six months. One month ago the premium for this same risk and period of time was five guineas per cent.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The president of the province of East Prussia at Koenigsberg has received the following telegram from Emperor William who has been on the eastern battle front:

"The Russians are completely beaten. Our beloved east Prussia is free from the enemy."

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The official report on the progress of fighting given out in Berlin today says that the Russians taken prisoners by the Germans of East Prussia now amount to 64,000 men.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The reply of Sir Edward Grey to the American note on the subject of the seizure and detention of American cargoes destined for neutral European ports, Germany's threat of a submarine blockade of Great Britain and England's retaliatory measures against it are absorbing the attention of the British public.

Sir Edward's long and carefully considered reply concerning American complaints of delays to which her cargoes have been subjected by the British navy was much discussed, but naturally the German threat of a submarine blockade and Great Britain's preparations to counteract its effect were uppermost in the minds of ship owners and traders. As Germany has for some time been attempting to sink all British ships which her submarines could approach, her blockade ultimatum has caused little alarm.

Effects Little Change.

All important shipping companies have announced that there will be no change in their regular sailings while British, French and Belgian owned cross-channel steamers are maintaining their schedules. The Dutch company which maintains a mail service between Flushing and Folkestone has suspended sailings and there has been some talk of mail being carried by Dutch destroyers.

There has been no increase in insurance rates for fishing vessels at the same time having arranged to pay compensation to sailors who may be injured as the result of casualties. There has been an increase in the price of coal and coal freights, but this is due entirely to the increased demand, particularly from Italy, together with a shortage of ships.

Notwithstanding its intense interest in the important questions which now involve shipping interests, England has not lost sight of the military operations now in progress on both fronts. The fighting in East Prussia and Bukovina where the two extreme wings of the Russian army are heavily engaged by Austro-German forces is considered the most important action going on, either in the east or west. Petrograd dispatches insist that the Russians carried out in perfect order their retirement in East Prussia.

Want Warsaw.

An important battle is raging in the vicinity of Augustow, where in the fall the Russians succeeded in stopping a previous German attempt to invade Russia. Now, however, the Muscovites have a much more serious threat to deal with, for in addition to having sent a new army into Prussia, the Germans are in strong force in the district between East Prussia and the lower Volga. Their continued advance there would jeopardize the Russians who are holding the trenches to the south of the Vistula and who succeeded in frustrating Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's attempts to reach Warsaw from the west.

The German plans are not quite clear, but it is believed probable they still have their eyes on Warsaw and hope by taking that city to break the offensive so that they may be free to take more energetic steps against the allies in the west.

Anticipating this possibility the allies, during the last two days, have made a vigorous attack against the Germans in Flanders and France. The outcome of this effort cannot be stated as the French and German reports are in direct conflict.

In Bukovina the Austrians are reported to have partially surrounded the Russians before Czernowitz, but the battle still is in progress and reinforcements are reaching the Russians who have the advantage of undamaged railways both to this point and to Nadworna, farther west which the Austrians have reoccupied. The Russians report continued progress in the Carpathians.

FIVE MINERS ARE KILLED
IN MISSOURI EXPLOSION

RICH HILL, Mo., Feb. 18.—Five miners were killed near Rich Hill today in a gas explosion in the workings of the Atlas Coal Mining company.